SEPT & OCT 2026

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A free children's book newsletter by authorfy.

BOOKDROP



The epic adventure series loved by millions of readers

Featuring

KATHERINE RUNDELL

Photography Will Carne Studios

Also featuring: Holly Swain, Andy Shepherd, Jennifer Bell, Phil Corbett, Guy Bass and more



Photography Will Carne Studios

Q&A

WITH KATHERINE RUNDELL

There's a place where all the wildest stories began, and that place is the Glimouria Archipelago – the setting for Katherine Rundell's globally bestselling and award-winning 'Impossible Creatures' series. It follows the story of two children's epic adventure to transform the world, and in book 3 'The Neverfear', they face fearsome giants, win a daring race, and outwit deadly enemies to save those they love most. In a world where the creatures of myth still live, this is a dazzling, daring and deep-thinking series, sure to delight readers aged 9+.

Q What inspired you to write the 'Impossible Creatures' books?

About ten years ago, I had the idea of a girl with a coat that allowed her to fly, but only when the wind blew. I knew that I wanted to write a world large enough for that girl to fly in; one that readers would want to return to again and again.

Q Which mythical creature would you most like to meet in real life?

I'd love to meet a jaculus dragon: small enough to fit in a teacup but with enough fire to burn down a city. My jaculus is called Jacques, and he has the personality of a slightly drunk, frequently irate professor.

Q What is your favourite thing about writing these books?

I loved researching the mythical creatures; hunting in libraries and old archives for creatures like the borometz, a sheep that grows from a tendril in the earth, and the kludde, a bloodthirsty wolf-dog with ears of fire.

Click here to watch Katherine's videos





illustrations (c) Daniel Egnéus

AN EXTRACT FROM 'THE NEVERFEAR'



FIRE AT MIDSUMMER

Every year, the citizens of the Glimouria Archipelago celebrated the longest day of the year with a feast. Tonight, while the sky would deepen to navy and the moon would rise, it would never grow dark. Glimourians would gather to eat Midsummer cake, traditionally as large as a bicycle wheel and tall as a smallish horse. They would drink dryad wine, and salute the glory of the light.

Midsummer celebrations varied across the thirty-four islands of Glimouria according to custom. On the Island of Antiok, centaurs galloped around great bonfires which sparked red and purple and blue. Off the coast, mermaids met to play their way through the night on flutes forged from lobster shells. On the mainland of Lithia, small sticky children chased gold-horned al-mirajes through the streets, trying to tie ribbons around their necks.

And in the fishing village of Arno on the Island of Arvatana, murder was being done.

Arno was made up of small, sturdy houses and a patchwork of meadows. It was home to herds of tiddy mun, a bog creature which conjured mist every night. The tiddy mun caused the meadows of mistflowers to thrive, the petals of which were used in the making of medicines and ointments, the principal trade of the island. It was a lush, wet, flourishing place.

It was hard, but not impossible, to burn.

Two dozen men, masked and armed, swarmed into the quayside market that morning. They came with crossbows and lances and torches, and they burned and slaughtered their way through the square. The sky swallowed the villagers' cries as it grew black with smoke and the houses flared to ruins and the meadows to ash. The men were ruthless and fast, trained in death.

They were not, though, unwatched. A ship called the *Fair Warning* had drawn alongside the coast with an intention to land. The ship's owner was Vigo Nex, a man with a diamond set in his canine tooth and morals so loose they flapped when he walked. But though he was a pirate, he was not a fool. He held up a fist to signal to his crew.

'Pull out, fast! Get out of range of the shore.'

Vigo put a glass to his eye. It was centaur-made, and allowed him to see every smear of soot on the cheeks of the terrified villagers who stood bound and captive by the quay.

Click here to read the full extract





Photography Will Carne Studios



IMPOSSIBLE CREATURES THE NEVERFEAR

'Dazzling'
The Times

'This series is pure class'
Daily Mail

'There was Tolkien, there is Pullman and now there is Katherine Rundell'
Michael Morpurgo

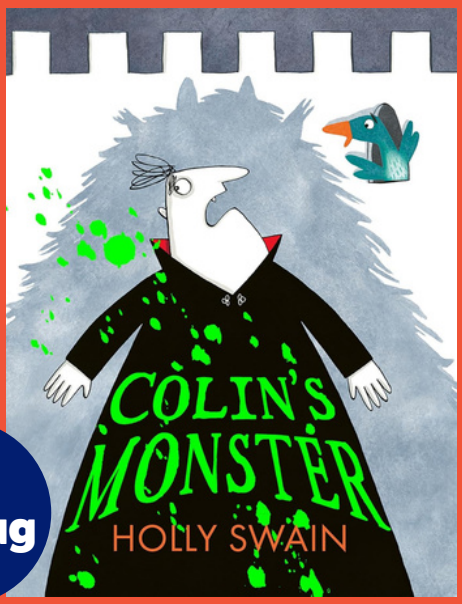
'A world as enchanting, as perilous, as richly imagined as Narnia or Middle Earth'
Frank Cottrell-Boyce



'Readers will seize this with delight'
Philip Pullman

'Stuffed full of fantastical, magical delight'
Cressida Cowell

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:
Picture Books & Early Readers



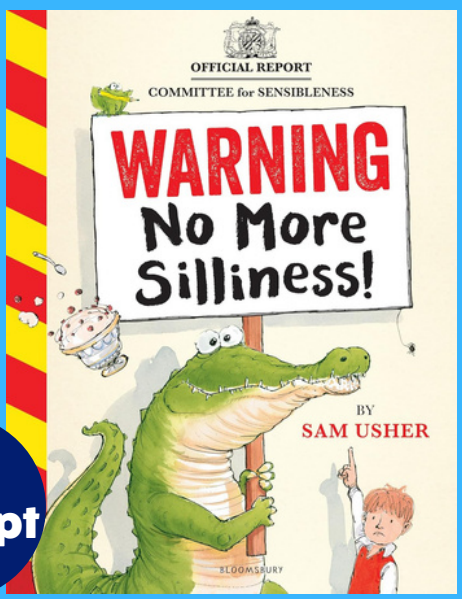
Out 27th Aug

Welcome back to Colin's Castle – where Colin and Duck have noticed a VERY strange noise! Soon there is only one place left to look... the DUNGEON!



Out 3rd Sept

The start of a spellbinding illustrated series featuring Witchy Boo, a little ghost with a BIG magical secret! Perfect for fans of 'Isadora Moon'.



Out 10th Sept

The fabulously funny, deliciously anarchic and decidedly silly new picture book from award-winning creator Sam Usher. **WARNING: This book contains A LOT of silliness**





CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACTS FROM THESE BOOKS



NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

Middle Grade: ages 7+



Out 2nd July

Iggy and his brother Cal still can't believe that they have the most wonderful adventure playground at the bottom of their garden - Wildtop Wood, a place that's full of mystery and magic.

Full of unexpected adventure, wonder and wildness, and just a little touch of magic!



Book 1

The second book in an enchanting new series from the author of the bestselling THE BOY WHO GREW DRAGONS

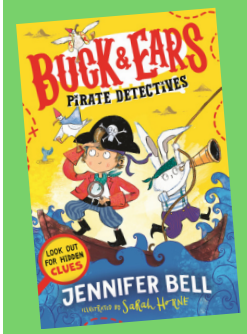
CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT



Out 8th Oct

A ghost ship is haunting the Seventy Seas in a spinetingling new case for the pirate detectives - spot the clues and race to uncover the truth behind the ghostly sightings!

Two terrible pirates...
Two brilliant detectives



'Buck & Ears is the funniest book of 2026!' - Elle McNicoll

Book 1

An illustrated pirate mystery series for readers 6-9, crammed with puzzles and clues

CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT



Out 24th Sept

Can you help Werelock - the world's greatest (and only) werewolf detective - and his raven assistant, Scratch, on a daring rescue mission?



Books 1 & 2

A werewolf-filled take on Sherlock Holmes who needs the reader's help to crack the case!

Filled with puzzles, clues and riddles to work out.

CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:
Middle Grade: ages 9+



Out 10th Sept

One's dead! One's bread! When Ghost arrives at a haunted mansion, what he doesn't expect to find is a talking slice of bread. Introducing . . . Toast!

A hilarious new graphic novel from the author of KITTY QUEST

'Kids will absolutely love this book!' - Jamie Smart, creator of BUNNY VS MONKEY

'A spooktacular slice of fun!' - Rob Biddulph

CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT



Out 3rd Sept

Take a trip through the sideways door and let supernatural secrets come alive in these chilling tales of terror! But be warned - your world may never be the same again...

A gloriously original collection from the author of STITCH HEAD

For readers who like their stories on the unsettling side

Perfect for fans of Chris Priestley or Jennifer Killick

CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT



Out 24th Sept

The ghastly tale of a spoiled child, a crumbling manor and a life-changing potion... Perfect for fans of 'The Beast and the Bethany' series!

A whimsical twist on the classic tale by RL Stevenson

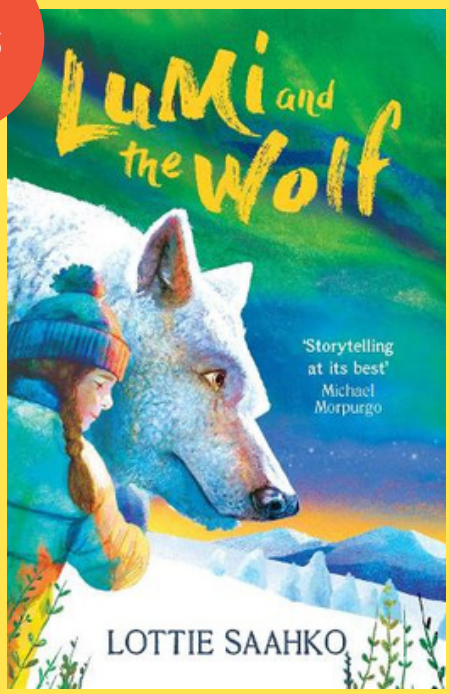
Expect gothic humour, chaos and mayhem, potions and laboratories, monsters inside and out...

'I can't wait to read it again.' – Lemony Snicket

CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT

BOOK REVIEWS & RECOMMENDATIONS

For ages 9+



I was SO lucky to get an early copy of 'Lumi and the Wolf' by Lottie Saahko. It's publishing on 24th September 2026 and believe me when I say - it's worth the wait! When Lumi arrives in Lapland, her aunt and uncle warn her of the wild white wolf. But when Lumi meets him and learns he's being hunted, she decides to do whatever it takes to save his life. This is a spellbinding, sensitively written story that swept me away! I love the neurodivergent representation, the forest diary illustrations, and Lumi's determination and bravery.



Children's Author & Authorfy Director, Mel Taylor-Bessent

For ages 7+



The Megalomaniacs have crash-landed in Bobbletown and are planning to take over! But the humans of Bobbletown need help to stop Queen Eyeball! I like the way the unexpected helpers came at the right time. So far this is the first and only book of this series by Jamie Smart who is also the author of 'Bunny vs Monkey' and 'Flember' . I enjoy how it has chapters but it's in colourful comic book style.



Finn, age 7

Reading for Pleasure

Tips from the Open University team

Magazines & Newspapers

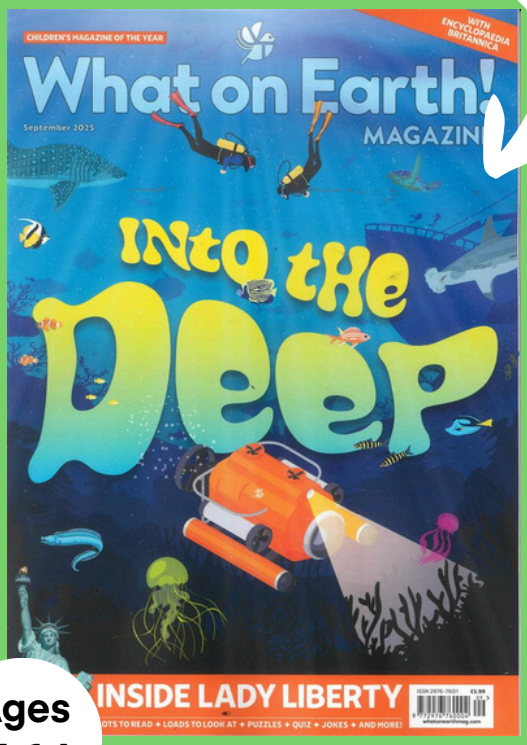
Reading together doesn't always have to mean sitting down with a book. Magazines and newspapers can open-up quick, enjoyable moments of shared reading.

- Dip in and out together. Read information that catches your eye.
- Share usual facts, funny stories or surprising headlines.
- Talk about images, captions, quizzes or articles that spark curiosity.
- Follow interests together - from football and gaming to animals and current events there is much to discover!

Explore this curated collection of Magazines and Newspapers to uncover something new together.



The Reading for Pleasure team recommend...



Ages 7-14

Bursting with fascinating facts, quizzes and discoveries

Packed with illustrations, jokes and bite-sized reading

Perfect for curious readers to dip into and chat about together!

Reading for Pleasure

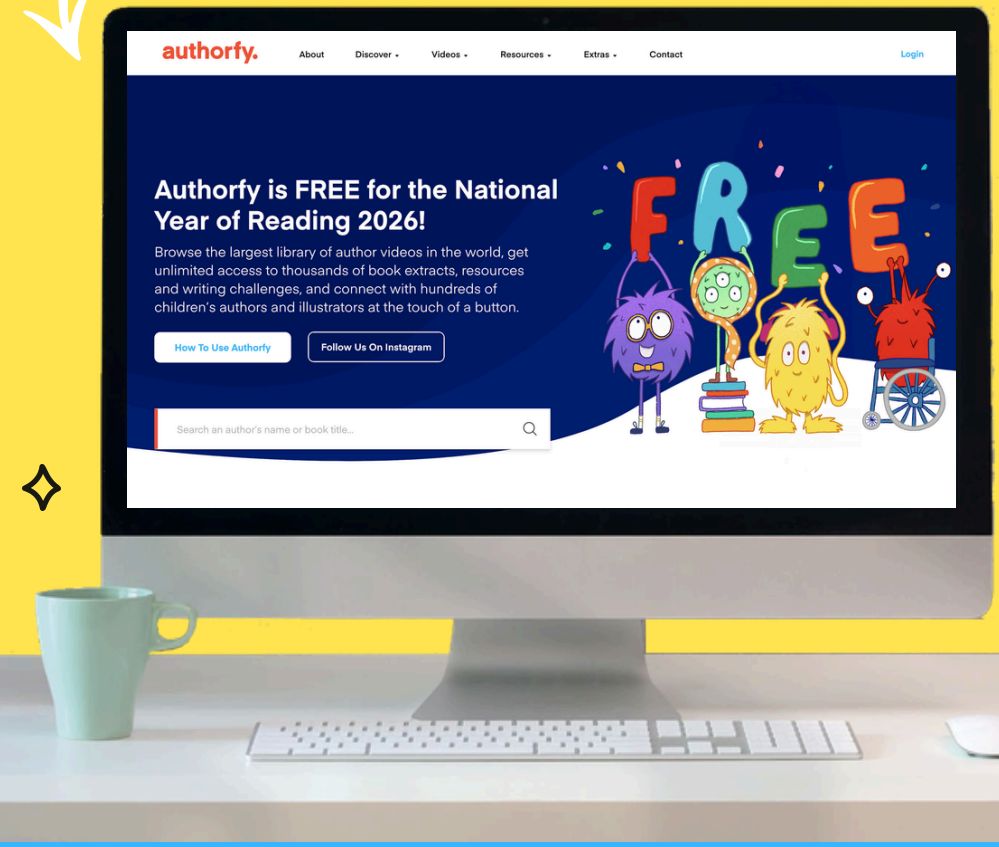
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GO ALL IN.

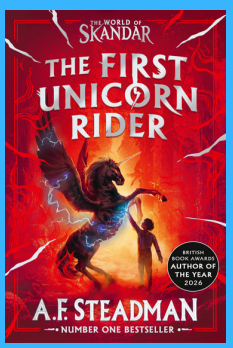
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September Books of the Month on Authorfy





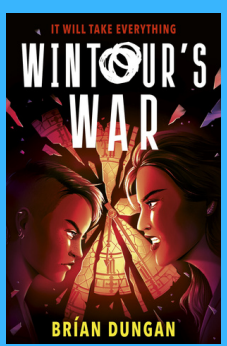
















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